

Kobe University Brussels European Centre Opening Symposium  
Friday 4 March 2011

Conferral Ceremony of Doctor Honoris Causa

Your Excellency, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, it is our great pleasure and honor to have your presence here with us today. We understand that your first visit to Kobe University was made last April, in close connection with the occasion of your attendance at the 19th EU-Japan Summit, and as the chairman of this conference you successfully secured an agreement to explore and expand the ways to step up academic exchanges between the EU and Japan. With deepest gratitude I remember that this very EU-Japan agreement immediately bore its full fruit in the form of your kind proposal to visit Kobe University to give a talk directly to our students. Your discussion was inspired by your deep understanding of Japanese culture and supported by your strong will to promote the exchange of science and technology between the EU and Japan. Moreover in your lecture to our students, you sufficiently underlined the necessity and importance of the effort with which EU and Japan have to maintain their mutual relationship whatever change might happen in it in the future, and you made an attempt to suggest new plans of the EU-Japan relationship for the future. Your Kobe University address entitled "A Changing EU and a Changing Japan in a Changing World" doubtlessly left a strong impact on minds of our students, and caused them to be strongly aware of the necessity and importance of developing their own broader and fresher international perspectives. The expansive coverage of your lecture given on that occasion at Kobe University and its subsequent dissemination by media did certainly serve to strengthen the international presence of Kobe University in respect to its significant role in the current development of the international academic exchange of education and research.

In recognition of your significant help and contribution to Kobe University, we cordially confer a Kobe University Doctor Honoris Causa upon Your Excellency.

FUKUDA Hideki  
President of Kobe University